

**2024 Networks of Care: Teaching Artist Support Grants  
Panelist Biographies - Public Review Panels: March 28, 2024**

**Xtal Azul**

Xtal Azul is a queer xicanx interdisciplinary artist, writer, educator, and brujx plant-magic maker, whose work centers themes of queerness, ritual, mestizaje+indigequeer magic, and the body. From 2014-2019, Azul co-organized the beloved Magic Makers: Queer Art, Craft, and Healing Fair in Oakland. Azul's poems were published in QTPOCALYPSE (2021), an art zine and survival guide. Their work, *Aqui 'stoy*, was part of the 30th Annual Juried Exhibition, *Interconnected*, at Southern Exposure gallery in San Francisco (2021). They were also the lead artist for the Bay Area American Indian Two Spirit drum multimedia installation, *Calling Us Home/Regresa*, in the *Dreams Emerging, Beyond Resilience: Dia de Los Muertos* exhibition at Somarts in San Francisco (2021). Xtal Azul co-curated the National Queer Arts Festival's visual art exhibition of *Vaz A Ver/You Will See* (2022), and is currently co-curating the NQAF's 2023 art exhibition. They are a recipient of the 2022 Artist Adaptability Circle grant (Diamond Wave), which centers BIPOC artists, mutual aid, and creative collaboration. They live, teach, and make things in Fruitvale.

**Marika Iyer**

Marika Iyer is an educator in Oakland public schools and at San Francisco State University who thinks and writes about learning, culture, and the realities of schools. With over a decade of experience working in urban education, they seek to connect scholarship to pedagogy, leveraging the arts and critical youth literacies in meaningful ways for today's students and educators.

**Rohan Krishnamurthy**

Indian-American percussionist, composer, and educator Dr. Rohan Krishnamurthy is one of the leading voices of Indian classical and cross-genre music in the South Asian diaspora. Acclaimed a "musical ambassador" by *The Times of India*, he received mridangam training from the legendary maestro, Sri. Guruvayur Dorai. Distinguished as a soloist, composer, and collaborator, Rohan performed with legendary Indian classical musicians and Grammy Award-winning global artists. Rohan leads The Alaya Project, an Indo-jazz-funk collective featuring celebrated saxophonist Prasant Radhakrishnan and keyboardist Colin Hogan. The group's recently released debut album has been praised by *Jazziz Magazine*, NPR, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and more. Rohan holds a Ph.D. in musicology from the Eastman School of Music and directs the RohanRhythm Percussion Studio with students from across the globe. Rohan is the recipient of international awards and grants including commissions from the San Francisco Arts Commission, Zellerbach Foundation, and Goethe Institute (Germany). He teaches in the Music Department at Ohlone College and his patented RohanRhythm drum tuning system is available worldwide.

**PC Munoz**

PC Muñoz is a musician, writer, and education program designer based in San Francisco. His body of work as an artist and producer includes GRAMMY®-nominated contemporary classical music with composer/cellist Joan Jeanrenaud as well as projects with rock legend Jackson Browne, Chicana poet/chanteuse Ingrid Chavez, jazz musicians David Boyce and Francis Wong, hip-hop artist Kev Choice, and many more. He is a Mosaic America Fellow, a featured writer in the award-winning collection from University of Hawai'i Press, *Indigenous Pacific Islander Eco-literatures*, and the first Director of Education and Community Engagement for the Freight & Salvage in Berkeley. He is the creator of the Freight's flagship arts integration program, Golden State of Song.

**Anne W Smith**

Dr. Anne W. Smith, an Oakland resident, is an advocate, arts educator, arts professional, consultant, professor and arts educator. She is a frequent panelist for national, state and local projects. She has held leadership positions for California Arts Council, San Francisco Arts Commission, ODC Dance, Dance Spectrum Ballet, Book Club of California, San Francisco Center for the Book and San Francisco Circus Center.

She was arts administration chair at Golden Gate University, a tenured high school teacher of humanities, speech and theatre. Other faculty appointments: Showa University of Music, Japan, HEC, University of Montreal, American University (Washington, D.C.) and College of Charleston. She is currently Senior Adjunct Professor of Practice at GGU Ageno School of Business, and Shenandoah University.

Smith is currently board member for Medical Clown Project, and Chanticleer, and co-chair of Commonwealth Club Arts Forum. Previously board president for Theatre Bay Area, Board member California Arts Advocates, San Francisco Girls Chorus, and California Lawyers for the Arts.